

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5925
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2002
ILLEGAL COAL MINING
BASUDEB ACHARIA

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Coal India Limited (CIL) is aware that illegal coal mining operation from the abandoned coal mines/open cast projects of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) is going on ;
- (b) if so, the quantum of coal mined illegally during each of the last three years;
- (c) the estimated loss suffered as a result thereof; and
- (d) the remedial steps taken/being taken by CIL in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) : Yes, Sir. Cases of illegal mining operations have been reported from the abandoned coal mines/opencast projects of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) in the States of West Bengal/Bihar/ Jharkhand.

(b) & (c): Illegal mining activities are being done in the nature of clandestine extraction and pilferage of coal from abandoned/closed/disused mines or from outcrop regions. As such, the exact quantum of loss suffered cannot be specified. However, on the basis of raids conducted, the quantities of coal recovered during the last three years are given as under :-

Eastern Coalfields Limited

1998-99 1999-2000 2000-2001 2001-2002 (upto Feb., 2002)

Quantity recovered	Approx. value (Rs.	Quantity recovered	Approx. value (Rs.	Quantity recovered	Approx. value (Rs.	Quantity recovered	Approx. value (Rs.
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(tonne s)	in lakh)	(tonne s)	in lakh)	(tonne s)	in lakh)	(tonne s)	in lakh)
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5271	42.17	403	3.22	5636	46.09	21301	170.00
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(d) : Coal India Limited has taken the following action to prevent illegal mining in leasehold areas:-

- 1) Intelligence collection.
- 2) Dozing off/filling up of illegal mining sites wherever possible.
- 3) Erection of fencing walls in abandoned/disused openings.
- 4) Round the clock patrolling by own security force and CISF.
- 5) Surprise checks/raids by Security Force/CISF.
- 6) Whenever illegally mined coal and implements of illegal mining are seized during the course of raids, the same are handed over to local police

and FIRs lodged.

7) Closed liaison is kept with district authorities seeking their help and cooperation in curbing illegal mining.

To curb illegal mining, the Government have also taken up the matter with the coal producing states.